

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05109 200906Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AS-01

/070 W

-----009088 200913Z /20

O R 200818Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4603

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5109

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION OPENS WITH TROOP
ISSUE TOPPING AGENDA

SUMMARY: ROKG AND DRP LEADERSHIP HAVE BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY
TO DERAIL EFFORTS BY NDP TO REFURBISH ITS OPPOSITION IMAGE BY
ENGINEERING SOME CONTROVERSY IN SPECIAL SESSION BEGINNING JUNE
20. TROOPS ARE THE MAIN ISSUE AND TO BLUNT IT DRP HAS ALREADY
AGREED TO JOINING WITH NDP IN RESOLUTION CALLING ON U.S. TROOPS
TO REMANIN, PROVIDING MORE CONTROVERSIAL DOMESTIC ISSUES DO
NOT BECOME RIDERS ON SUCH RESOLUTION. DRP FEELS IT CAN CONTAIN
EMERGENCY MEASURES AND MYONGDONG ISSUES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF
COMMITTEE HEARINGS IF NDP STILL WANTS TO LET OFF STEAM ON
THESE QUESTIONS. DESPITE THESE EFFORTS HOWEVER, WE EXPECT THIS
SESSION MAY PROVE TO BE CONSIDERABLY MORE ACTIVE THAN THOSE IN
PAST YEAR OR SO. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH JUNE 20 SPECIAL SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS
MEETING OSTENSIBLY TO CONSIDER AND PASS 1977 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 05109 200906Z

MORE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES ARE SURE TO DOMINATE THE SESSION.
TROOP WITHDRAWAL WILL BE THE MAIN ISSUE. DRP IS FULLY AWARE
THAT NDP LEADERSHIP IS BEING PRESSED HARD FROM WITHIN PARTY
RANKS TO OFFER PUBLIC MORE FEISTY IMAGE AND THAT BECAUSE IT
HAS AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH U.S., ROKG IS VULNERABLE ON ISSUE
OF TROOP WITHDRAWALS, WHICH ALL BUT A BARE HANDFUL OF KOREANS
OPPOSE. TO HELP DEFUSE EXPECTED OPPOSITION ATTACK, DRP HAS

ALREADY AGREED IN PRE-SPECIAL SESSION MEETINGS, TO JOIN WITH OPPOSITION IN RESOLUTION CALLING FOR U.S. TROOPS TO REMAIN IN KOREA'S DEFENSE. BEFORE THIS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED, NDP CHAIRMAN YI CHOL-SUNG TOLD EMBOFF THAT OPPOSITION PLANNED TO MAKE POINT THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF "FAILURE OF ROKG DIPLOMACY THAT U.S. FORCES ARE LEAVING WITHIN NEXT FIVE YEARS;" YI ADMITTED HOWEVER, THAT JOINT RESOLUTION ITSELF IS NOW FIRST PRIORITY ON NDP AGENDA. ACCORDING TO SPEAKER'S OFFICE, DRP HAS ELIMINATED PARTISAN ASPECT OF ISSUE BY JOINING IN RESOLUTION, BUT SUBJECT OF TROOPS AND U.S. ROK RELATIONS WILL STILL BE FRONT AND CENTER IN INTERPELLATIONS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 22, 24, 25 AND 27. MOREOVER, INDIVIDUAL ASSEMBLYMEN ARE LIABLE TO GIVE GOVERNMENT MINISTERS SOME UNCOMFORTABLE MOMENTS ON THIS ISSUE AND SEVERAL OF THE MINISTERS HAVE INDICATED CONSIDERABLE ANXIOUSNESS ABOUT SESSION.

2. ROKG AND DRP ARE ALSO AWARE THAT NDP STRATEGY CALLS FOR DEBATE ON OPPOSITION DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REPEAL OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. NINE AND DRAFT RECOMMENDATION THAT MYONGDONG PRISONERS BE RELEASED. DRP INTENDS TO TRY TO RESTRICT ANY SUCH DEBATE TO COMMITTEE LEVELS AND ONE YUCHONGHOE ASSEMBLYMAN NOTED PRIVATELY THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT EITHER ISSUE TO REACH ASSEMBLY FLOOR FOR VOTE. NDP CHAIRMAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD REACHED AN "UNDERSTANDING" WITH PRESIDENT PAK ON MYONGDONG MATTER AND THAT PRESIDENT WILL EVENTUALLY ORDER PRISONER'S RELEASE, NDP FELT IT COULD "CAREFULLY" INSERT MYONGDONG INTO ASSEMBLY DEBATE WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING YI'S RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT. IT IS NO SECRET THAT NDP FACTIONS ARE PRESSING YI FOR MORE SPEEDY AND POSITIVE RESULTS ON MYONGDONG CASE AND TO LESSER EXTENT ON E.M. 9.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 05109 200906Z

3. APART FROM SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET ITSELF WHICH SHOULD POSE NO GREAT PROBLEM IN THE SPECIAL SESSION, OTHER ISSUES WILL BE V.A.T., NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL, AND SEOUL CITY PROBLEMS. DRP SEEMS SATISFIED THAT ANNOUNCED REDUCTION OF PROPOSED VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT) FROM THIRTEEN PERCENT TO TEN PERCENT HAS TAKEN POLITICAL EDGE OFF ISSUE. NDP, HOWEVER, WILL PUSH FOR TWO-YEAR DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF TAX, (SEPTTEL ON VAT). DESPITE GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES IN PRESS THAT SUBJECT OF NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL WOULD NOT BE RAISED THIS SESSION, ROKG CHANGED ITS MIND IN JUNE 17 MEETING. PRESIDENT HIMSELF APPEARS TO BE PUSHING ISSUE; SOME ASSEMBLYMAN BELIEVE SIMPLY TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM HOTTER SUBJECTS. NDP WILL ALSO TRY TO MAKE POLITICAL HAY OUT OF LOW LEVELS OF MONEY OFFERED PROPERTY OWNERS IN SEOUL CITY EMINENT DOMAIN CASES. NDP WANTS TO FOCUS ATTACK ON SEOUL CITY MAYOR. DRP SOURCES INDICATE MAYOR IS NOT REALLY POPULAR WITH RULING PARTY EITHER AS HE "CONTINUALLY REFERS (DRP) COMPLAINTS TO BLUE HOUSE" AND WILL NOT DEAL WITH PARTY DIRECTLY.

4. ASSEMBLY OPENING CEREMONY IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20 AND ON JUNE 21 TWO NEWLY-ELECTED ASSEMBLYMEN FROM CHONGNO-CHUNG DISTRICT WILL TAKE OATH. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY EXPLANATION OF 1ST SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGER. JUNE 22-27 HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR FOUR DAYS OF INTERPELLATIONS OF ROKG MINISTERS AND JUNE 29-30 FOR PRELIMINARY DELIBERATION OF 1977 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET IN STANDING COMMITTEES. ON JULY 1 THROUGH 5 BUDGET SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE WILL DELIBERATE AND ON CLOSING DAY, JULY, PLENARY SESSION WILL MEET TO ADOPT BUDGET.

5. COMMENT: ALL IN ALL, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF TROOP ISSUE AND CONTINUING QUESTIONS REGARDING PAK REGIME'S HANDLING OF IT, SUPPLEMENTARY SESSION IS SHAPING UP AS MOST ACTIVE SINCE KIM OK-SUN LET GO AT PRESIDENT PAK IN THE FALL OF 1975.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL05109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770219-0280
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770639/aaaabidv.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 446be779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2092534
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION OPENS WITH TROOP ISSUE TOPPING AGENDA SUMMARY: ROKG AND DRP LEADERSHIP HAVE BEEN WORKING
TAGS: PINT, MARR, PFOR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/446be779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009